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Agenda items 102 and 112

Advancement of women

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153
of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

Summary

1. By draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendation made by the Working Group on the Future Operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and would request the Secretary-General to implement the measures recommended by the Working Group in that regard (A/57/330).
2. The amount of \$500,000 from the regular budget 2002-2003 which would be entailed by the provisions of the draft resolution would not be sufficient to enable INSTRAW to continue its operations even at the current minimum level. Nor is it anticipated that the resources required to enable INSTRAW to operate in 2003 could be provided using existing resources approved in the regular programme budget for 2002-2003. The additional requirements of \$500,000 would therefore represent a charge against the contingency fund and would be subject to the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. The additional amount of \$1,309,500 should be provided from voluntary contributions.



1. Under operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendation made by the Working Group on the Future Operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and would request the Secretary-General to implement the measures recommended by the Working Group in this regard (see A/57/330, para. 57).

2. In paragraph 57 of its report (A/57/330), the Working Group recommended the linkage of INSTRAW to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. In that connection, the Working Group recommended that the following measures, inter alia, be adopted:

(a) Inviting the Economic and Social Council to amend the statute of INSTRAW in accordance with paragraphs 52, 53, and 55 of the report of the Working Group;

(b) Allocating an amount of \$500,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations to finance the core activities of the Institute so as to give it the same status as other institutes of the United Nations system;

(c) Examining the feasibility of establishing an advisory board composed of Member States to replace the Board of Trustees;

(d) Creating the post of Deputy Director with specific fund-raising responsibilities;

(e) Establishing a liaison for INSTRAW in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3. The report of the Working Group was submitted to the General Assembly in documents A/57/330 and Add.1. In his note on the situation of INSTRAW submitted in accordance with rule 112 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/57/452), the Secretary-General indicated, inter alia, that the provision to INSTRAW of \$500,000 from the regular budget to finance its core activities, as recommended by the Working Group, would be sufficient to cover only the salaries and common staff costs of the four Professional posts (one D-2, one P-4, one P-3 and one P-2/1) currently on the staffing table of INSTRAW for one year, with no funds remaining to cover supporting operating expenses. It was estimated in the note that approximately \$1,400,000 per year would be needed to fund the Institute's activities at the current minimum level of activities. Subsequently, other proposals before the Committee would mean that that estimate would require upward adjustment.

4. Taking into account all the current provisions contained in paragraph 57 of the report of the Working Group, it is estimated that the total amount of \$1,809,500 per year would be needed in that regard. The elements to be funded within that amount are as follows: (a) \$500,000 for the four current Professional posts (one D-2, one P-4, one P-3 and one P-2/1); (b) \$176,000 for the new post of a Deputy Director; (c) \$285,000 for the four current General Service posts; (d) \$208,500 per annum to provide for minimal administrative resource requirements, including general operating expenses; (e) \$400,000 to enable the Institute to carry out minimal substantive activities, including consultancy, travel and general temporary assistance resources; and (f) \$240,000 for a liaison unit for INSTRAW in New York, including

the annual costs of one Professional and one General Service post (\$202,800) and rental of office space, equipment, supplies and materials, travel resources etc. (\$37,200).

5. There are no resources provided under the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 which could be made available to finance INSTRAW operations in 2003. Any amount that the General Assembly may decide to allocate to enable the Institute to continue its operations in 2003 would need, therefore, to be provided through an additional appropriation in the context of operations of the contingency fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213.

6. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1, that decision would give rise to additional requirements of \$500,000 for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund, and as such would require an increase in appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003. Consequently, an additional provision, amounting to \$1,309,500, would be required over and above the regular budget resources available under section 9, Economic and social affairs. The amount of \$1,309,500 should be provided from as yet unidentified voluntary contributions.

7. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/248, part B, section VI, inter alia, expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. In line with its responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, the Fifth Committee will determine how to meet the requirements arising from the decisions of the Third Committee.